

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1539

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: JAN 29-30 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT ON LEBANON

1. MEDIA LED WITH RESULTS OF QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE MEETING AND RESOLUTIONS OF ISLAMIC MEETING ATTENDED BY VARIOUS ISLAMIC-ORIENTED POLITICAL AND SOCIAL GROUPS IN LEBANON. PRESS HEADLINED, "QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS FOCUS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON AND CAIRO AGREEMENT. RESOLUTIONS OF ISLAMIC GROUPING UNDERLINE THE ARABISM OF LEBANON, REJECTION OF PARTITION, AND DEMAND FOR ADF ENTRY INTO THE SOUTH."

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2. PRESS REPORTED SOUTH LEBANON DEALTH WITH AT QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE MEETING AND KUWAITI AMBASSADOR AT END OF MEETING QUOTED TELLING PRESS "PRES. SARKIS IS DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF ADF ENTRY INTO THE SOUTH AND IS ACTING IN THE LEBANESE AND ARAB INTERESTS." ARTICLES ALSO CLAIMED SUPPORT FOR "RECENT ADF MEANSURES" FROM LEBANESE SPEAKER KAMAL ASAAD, DEPUTY SPEAKER MICHEL SASSIN, AND INTERIOR MINISTER SALAH

SALMNA. ARTICLE STATED SARKIS HAD MET WITH FONMIN BOUTROS TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN THE SOUTH.

3. SAME ARTICLES DEALT WITH MEETING VARIOUS ISLAMIC GROUPS AND FACTIONS HELD IN BEIRUT "IN RESPONSE TO KAMAL SHATILA'S CALL." FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS REPORTEDLY EMERGED FROM CLSOED MEETING: A) REJECTION OF PARTITION; B) LEBANON'S LAND AND PEOPLE PART OF ARAB NATION, AND PART OF ITS MESSAGE IS WORKING FOR SOLIDARITY AND MOBILIZATION OF ARAB ENERGIES TO CONFRONT ITS ENEMIES; C) UNIFICATION OF INFORMATION MEDIA AND ABOLITION OF ANY BODY CLASHING WITH OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS; D) GIVING PRIORITY TO THOSE FORCES FROM THEIR HOMES; E) RECONSTRUCTION OF A UNIFIED NATIONAL ARMY; AND F) ADHERENCE TO RIYADH AND CAIRO SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS. FINAL RESOLUTION REFERRED TO SOUTH LEBANON AND STATED "ADF ENTRY INTO SOUTH CONSIDERED AS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF CALMNESS AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT LEBANESE TERRITORY, WITH THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES PROCEEDING TO MAINTAIN SECURITY INSIDE BORDER VILLAGES TOGETHER WITH THE ADF AT SAME TIME IN WHICH PLAN TO DEVELOP AND CONSTRUCT THE SOUTH IS INITIATED.

4. ONLY ONE EDITORIAL DEALT WITH SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON. TISHRIIN DECLARED THAT ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF ADF PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON AN ATTEMPT TO "DISTRACT" ARABS BY RAISING ISSUES SUCH AS SECURE BORDERS "WHICH HAVE BECOME OBSOLETE AS RESULT OF OCTOBER WAR." EDITORIAL ASSERTED ARABS ENTITLED TO INTRODUCE ANY ARAB FORCES INTO SOUTH LEBANON IN RESPONSE TO "LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITY SINCE THE LEBANESE SOUTH IS ARAB TERRITORY, AND THE ARAB WILL IS UNCLASSIFIED

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ENTITLED TO DETERMINE WHAT IT WANTS. THE INSECAPABLE TRUTH IS THAT (ISRAEL).... WILL SURELY BE THE LOSER SINCE THIS ARAB RIGHT WILL INEVITABLY BE TAKEN, WHETHER BY MEANS OF PEACE OR BY MEANS OR WAR. THIS IS WHAT ISRAEL MUST BECOME WELL AWARE OF."

5. PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED COMMENTARY DEALING WITH SOUTH LEBANON APPEARED IN THAWRA JAN 29. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ADF FORCES MEANT PRIMARILY SYRIAN ARMY FORCES, IT STATED THAT THESE FORCES HAD BECOME "NIGHMARE" FOR ISRAEL. COMMENTARY DECLARED ISRAEL FORMERLY USED SOUTH LEBANON "TO CARRY OUT SERIES OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST SEVERAL ARAB STATES, BUT AREA'S FALLING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF DETERRENT FORCES HAS DEPRIVED ISRAEL OF OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE SOUTH FOR AGGRESSIVE MILITARY AND POLITICAL MEANS." MURPHY

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